

# *The Jazz Age*

## *US History & Govt.*



## *Classroom packet*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Warring to Roaring: The 1920s video guide**

**What kinds of changes took place in the economic, social and political lives of Americans in the 1920s? Give examples of each in the spaces below.**

Economic	
Social	
Political	

## Keen Talk for a Swanky Age

Objective: This exercise is designed to give you a feeling for the wild social climate of the 1920s. After a period of reform and international conflict, many Americans were disillusioned with American Society in the post-war years, which manifested itself into a time of social angst. This new generation, the lost generation, was marked with waning social morals and zany fads, which often belied deep social tensions. The social climate of the time can be brought to life with an exercise with words and expressions, which the lost generation added to the American vocabulary in the 1920s. In this activity, small groups or pairs will recreate the events and social conflicts of the time through the use of the zany slang of the roaring 20s.

Task:

- Once in groups, students will read materials on their assigned topic and answer the content questions provided.
- Groups will then create a conversation, which covers the content questions from their topic and incorporates eight slang terms from the 1920s. A valid list of slang terms will be provided.
- Students will then replace the 1920s slang terms with slang terms from their own era.
- Conversation guidelines
  - Each member of the group must have a copy of both conversations
  - Each member of the group must speak in both skits
  - The conversations must cover the content questions fully and accurately. Thus, students will be able to answer the topic questions completely upon viewing the skits.

### Rubric

	1	2	3	4
Content	Does not seem to understand the topic well	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic	Shows a good understanding of the topic	Shows full understanding of the topic as all of the questions are thoroughly addressed
Task	Conversations do not address two or more parts of the task	Conversations address all but one part of the task	Conversations address all parts of the task with little depth	Conversations address all parts of the task fully and in depth
Creativity	Conversations lack creativity and uniqueness	Conversations show some creativity	Conversations show creativity	Conversations are very creative and unique
Presentation	Student was not in character, did not speak audibly and/or did not speak in both conversations	Student's character presentation was average, student was difficult to understand and student spoke in both conversations	Student's character presentation was credible and spoke audibly in both conversations, but mostly read off the paper	Student's character presentation was superb and student spoke audibly, using good body language and had some lines memorized
Written work	Student handed in only one conversation	Student handed in both conversations with many grammatical errors	Student handed in two legible conversations with a few grammatical errors	Student handed in two legible, flawless conversations, on time

# The Ku Klux Klan

**Directions:** Read the text and the chart below. Then answer the questions.

The Ku Klux Klan is a secret society that was established by a group of Confederate Army veterans in Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1865. Its goals are to reestablish and maintain white supremacy. The table on this page summarizes a number of important facts about the first and second Klans.

The First Ku Klux Klan	The Second Ku Klux Klan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded by ex-Confederate soldiers during the Reconstruction period</li> <li>Greatest influence: 1866-1872</li> <li>A secret society dedicated to the restoration of white supremacy in the South</li> <li>Led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest, Imperial Wizard, a former Confederate general</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded by Protestant fundamentalists in the period before World War I</li> <li>Greatest influence: 1922-1928</li> <li>A national secret society dedicated to the promotion of white Anglo-Saxon Protestant ideals and "one hundred percent Americanism"</li> <li>Led by Doctor Hiram Wesley Evans, Imperial Wizard, a dentist and former KKK Grand Dragon from Texas</li> </ul>
Major Objectives	Major Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of constitutional rights for all Southern whites</li> <li>Protection of Southern women from carpetbaggers, scalawags, and freedmen</li> <li>Reestablishment of white citizens' home rule and the end of Reconstruction in the South</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of the United States government from foreign and/or radical elements</li> <li>Preservation of white supremacy and suppression of nonwhite influences</li> <li>Reestablishment of isolationist policies and restriction of immigration to the United States</li> </ul>
Reasons for Decline	Reasons for Decline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Klan terrorism, especially against black people, led to the passage of restrictive acts – the Force Act and the Ku Klux Act – in 1870-1871</li> <li>Reconstruction came to an end with the reestablishment of predominantly white governments in all Southern states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing incidents of violence forced many political allies to withdraw public support for the Klan</li> <li>Scandals and charges of corruption discredited the KKK and the Protestant heartland abandoned the movement</li> </ul>

## Interpreting Information

- When were the Ku Klux Klan's major periods of activity? \_\_\_\_\_
- What group founded the first Klan? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who founded the second Ku Klux Klan? \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparing and Contrasting

- List one major similarity between the first Klan and the second Klan. List two major differences. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Forming Generalizations

5. The second Ku Klux Klan required its members to be native-born, white, gentile citizens of the United States who were Protestant Christian and opposed to "foreign" religions. Why were each of the following groups excluded from Klan members?

Roman Catholics: \_\_\_\_\_

Indians: \_\_\_\_\_

immigrants: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Rebirth of the KKK**

### ***Reading:***

1. What were the objectives of the KKK?
2. What tactics did they use in achieving these goals?
3. What groups did they try to oppress?

## **Blake Manufacturing Co.**

1. How does this document show you that discrimination of blacks was not just in the South?
2. About what is the author complaining?
3. What attitudes are expressed by the author?
4. What would the writer of this letter like the Railroad Administration to do?

## **Jackson, Mississippi Daily News front page June, 1919**

1. What is going to happen at 5 o'clock in the afternoon?

2. What is the government going to do to prevent it from happening? Why?
3. What kind of help does the NAACP ask?

### **Sacco & Venzetti**

1. Who were Sacco & Venzetti?
2. On what charges were they arrested?
3. What was the trial verdict?
4. Most likely, why were they punished?
5. How were they victims of the Red Scare?

### **The Business of Politics: Harding & Coolidge**

1. Why did business prosper during the 1920's?
2. Who was President during the Teapot Dome Scandal?

3. Who was Albert Fall?

4. What did he do?

5. How did this affect the Republican Party and Harding?

6. What is meant by the following phrases:

*"The chief business of the American people is business."*

*"The man who builds a factory builds a temple..."*

*the man who works there worships there."*

7. What kind of economic leadership did Coolidge provide?

## **Red Scare**

1. Why were Americans paranoid about Communism?

2. What did this panic result in?

3. Who conducted these raids?

4. What happened to suspected communists?

### **Emergency Quota Act of 1921:**

1. What is the purpose of this act?

2. How was this act a reflection of the attitudes Americans held towards certain aliens?

### **Immigration Act of 1924:**

1. How was this immigration law different from the Immigration Act of 1921?

2. What immigrants were "welcomed" to the U.S.? Which ones were restricted?

3. What does the table suggest about the success of the Immigration Act of 1924 to achieve its stated goals?

### **Women of the Ku Klux Klan**

1. Why are the women writing to President Calvin Coolidge?



2. What do they think the principals of pure Americanism are?
3. How does the passage of the Act show you the intolerance shown toward immigrants during this time period?

## **Black Nationalism aka Harlem Renaissance**

1. Who was Marcus Garvey?
2. What did he attempt to do?
3. Was he successful?
4. What impact did he have on African-Americans?

### ***Poem:***

1. What message is Langston Hughes trying to convey?

## **The Harlem Renaissance:**

1. How were the black writers, artists and intellectuals like Marcus Garvey?

2. In what way were they different from Garvey?

### Scopes Monkey Trial

1. How was the new culture in conflict with traditional culture?

2. Who was John Scopes?

3. For what was he put on trial?

4. What was the trial **really** about?

4. Who was Scope's (defense) lawyer?

5. Who was the prosecuting attorney?

6. Even though Bryan could not explain much of the Bible, Scopes was found guilty. What is significant about that?

### Kaiser Wilson

1. Who is the "Wilson" referred to on the sign?

2. Why is he referred to as "Kaiser?"

3. What is the message of the sign?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Document:**

1. Public pressure and the contributions of women to WWI were responsible for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. What does this document say about "the right of citizens....to vote."

***The Negro Speaks of Rivers***

*by*

*Langston Hughes*

*"The night is beautiful,  
So the faces of my people.*

*The stars are beautiful,  
So the eyes of my people.*

*Beautiful, also, is the sun.  
Beautiful, also, are the souls  
of my people."*

## The Jazz Age Glossary

*The exuberant '20's were extraordinarily fertile years for language in America; dozens of new words and expressions sprang into existence. Much of the new verbiage was scornful of established ways; no less than half a dozen of the terms are roughly synonymous words means "nonsense." A partial list of terms that were coined or popularized in the decade appears below.*

ALL WET – wrong; arguing a mistaken notion or belief

APPLESAUCE – a term of derogation; nonsense; same as baloney, bunk, banana oil, hokum and horsefeathers.

BALONEY – nonsense; same as applesauce, etc.

BANANA OIL – nonsense; same as above.

BEE'S KNEES – a superb person or thing

BELLY LAUGH - a laugh, uninhibited laugh.

BERRIES – anything wonderful; similar to bee's knees

BIBLE BELT – an area in the South or south Midwest where Fundamentalist religion prevails (coined by H.L.

BLIND DATE – a date with an unknown person of the opposite sex, usually arranged by a mutual friend.  
BIG CHEESE – an important person

BRONX CHEER - a loud derisive noise from an audience (coined by the humorist Bugs Baer, who credited Bronx rooters at athletic events with inventing this mode of expression).

BULL SESSION – an informal group discussion

BUMP OFF – to murder

BUNK – nonsense; same as applesauce, etc. (a shortened form of *bunkum*, which is also spelled *buncombe*, from the name of a North Carolina county whose representative in Congress in 1820 explained the irrelevance of a speech he was making by saying that he was "talking to Buncombe").

CAKE-EATER – a ladies' man

CARRY A TORCH – to suffer from unrequited love

CAT'S MEOW – anything wonderful; similar to bee's knees, berries

CHEATERS – eyeglasses

COPACETIC – excellent

CRUSH – an infatuation with a person of the opposite sex

DARB – an excellent person or thing

DOGS- human feet

DRUGSTORE COWBOY – a fashionable idler who hangs around public places to pick up girls

DUMB DORA – a stupid girl

FALL GUY – a scapegoat

FLAPPER – a typical young girl with bobbed hair, short skirts and stockings

FLAT TIRE – a dull, boring person

FRAME – to cause a person's arrest with false evidence

GAM – a girl's leg (from French)

GATECRASHER – a person who arrives without an invitation, or a show without paying for admission

GIGGLE WATER – an alcoholic drink

GIN MILL – a speak-easy

GOLD DIGGER - a woman who uses her charm to extract money from a man

GOOFY – silly

GYP – to cheat (from *gypsy*)

HARD-BOILED – tough, without sympathy

HEEBIE-JEEBIES – the jitters

HEP – wise

HIGH-HAT – to snub

HOKUM – nonsense; same as applesauce, etc.

HOOFER – Chorus girl

HORSEFEATHERS – nonsense; same as applesauce, etc.

HOTSY-TOTSY – pleasing

JAKE – OK, commonly used in the phrase, "everything jake?"

JALOPY – old car

KEEN – attractive; appealing

KIDDO - a familiar form of address

NERTS (NUTS) - an interjection expressing the speaker's disgust

OSSIFIED- drunk

PEPPY- full of vitality

PET- same as neck

PINCH- arrest

PUSHOVER- a person or thing easily overcome

RASPBERRY- same as Bronx cheer

RITZY- elegant (from *Ritz*, the Paris hotel)

REAL McCOY, THE- the genuine article

RUN-AROUND- deceptive or delaying action, especially in response to a request

SCRAM- to leave hurriedly (from "scramble")

SCREWY- crazy; eccentric

SEX APPEAL- physical attractiveness to members of the opposite sex

SHEBA- a young woman with sex appeal



SHEIK- a young man with sex appeal

SMELLER- the nose

SOB SISTER- a woman reporter who leans toward sentimentality in the treatment of her subject matter

SPEAK-EASY- a saloon or bar selling bootleg whiskey

SPIFFY- having an elegantly fashionable appearance

SPIFFLICATED- drunk

STRUGGLE BUGGY- a car (from its use as a place in which boys tried to seduce girls)

STUCK ON- having a crush on

SWANKY- ritzy

SWELL- marvelous

TORPEDO- a hired gunman

UPCHUCK- to vomit

WHOOPEE- boisterous, convivial fun



